

# *The Interpretation of Patriotism by Indonesian Gen-Z through Social Justice Warrior Act in Social Media*

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**Abstract**— Social media platforms have become digital spaces where individuals from diverse backgrounds can express their patriotism and advocate for their country. This study aims to determine the extent to which Generation Z in Indonesia expresses patriotism through social justice warrior behavior on social media. The research will employ mass communication theory to determine the characteristics of social media and use the theory of patriotism and nationalism to define the meaning of patriotism. The study will examine how social justice activists shape the patriotism of Indonesian Generation Z on social media. The research approach is qualitative, focusing on the characteristics of cyberspace and analyzing the data from Indonesian social justice warriors' posts. The study will use virtual ethnography to provide a deep understanding of the significance and implications of social media usage and establish the continuity of relationship dynamics in the online world. The results of this study state that the sense of nationalism of the Gen-Z in Indonesia increases and is high when the love for their country is disturbed by other people. And in their actions, the Social Justice Warriors are also free and bring themselves into the realm of social media where they respond to this in their own way.

**Keywords**— Patriotism, Social Media, Social Justice Warrior, Gen-Z, Communication.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Patriotism, an emotional attachment that evokes strong sentiments inside individuals and unites them based on the common principles and beliefs of their native place, has exerted a significant influence throughout the course of human history. Throughout history, from antiquity to contemporary times, the notion of patriotism has surpassed temporal and geographical boundaries, evoking sentiments of allegiance, selflessness, and communal identity among heterogeneous societies. Patriotism, originating

from innate human territorial tendencies, has undergone a transformative process, resulting in a multifaceted sentiment that intersects with aspects such as culture, history, politics, and personal identity. [1] Patriotism has a historical origin in the birthplace of ancient city-states, wherein individuals demonstrated profound allegiance to their polis, exhibiting a sense of unity in order to protect their shared interests. Throughout history, individuals who possess a strong sense of loyalty and devotion to their respective nations have emerged as advocates and defenders of their homelands, particularly during periods of significant upheaval. [2] This is seen in notable instances such as the American Revolution, the Indonesian Independence Movement, and numerous more endeavors aimed at achieving national autonomy and self-governance.

In the present era, characterized by the intricate dynamics of a more interconnected global community, the enduring importance of patriotism persists, displaying its influence through a wide range of expressions across many cultural and societal contexts. The expressions of patriotism exhibit a wide range of diversity, mirroring the multitude of nations it encompasses. Certain individuals express their sense of patriotism by engaging in military service and demonstrating an unflinching dedication to safeguarding the sovereignty of their motherland. [3] For individuals, it manifests itself through involvement in civic activities, active participation in democratic procedures, and the advocacy for social equity within the framework of the nation. The cultural manifestations of patriotism, exemplified by the commemoration of national holidays, utilization of symbols, and adherence to traditions, serve to bolster a collective perception of identity and legacy. [1] The profound emotional connection individuals have towards their nation is not without of intricacies. In an increasingly globalized world, the phenomenon of patriotism has the potential to engender isolationist tendencies and breed animosity towards foreign nations, hence exacerbating tensions within the realm of international relations. There is a tendency for the distinction between patriotism and nationalism to become indistinct, so giving rise to inquiries regarding the likelihood of fostering a sense of exclusivity and xenophobia in instances of extreme nature. [4] The emergence of social media has initiated a unique period of interconnectedness, enabling individuals to surpass geographical limitations and interact with a wide range of communities globally. In the context of the contemporary digital environment, the concept of patriotism, characterized by a passionate allegiance to one's nation and its principles, has discovered a conducive platform for its manifestation, deliberation, and mobilization. [5]

Social media platforms have emerged as digital spaces resembling town squares, enabling individuals from diverse geographical backgrounds to express their affection for their country, advocate for various issues, and contribute to the formation of national narratives. [6] In the conventional framework, patriotism primarily found expression in tangible demonstrations of allegiance, such as the observance of national songs, display of flags, and participation in public assemblies. Nevertheless, the advent of social media has played a pivotal role in enabling the democratization of patriotism, so encouraging individuals to actively engage in creating the conversation surrounding their nation. [7] Individuals in society now have the ability to employ digital platforms as a means to express their distinct viewpoints, draw attention to urgent matters, and engage in collaborative endeavors that surpass conventional boundaries. The ubiquity of social media in contemporary society has led to the emergence of a distinct group of individuals who identify themselves as digital patriots. These individuals actively participate in online discussions, both embracing their national identity and engaging in broader global dialogues. Social media has the potential to enhance a collective sense of national cohesion and patriotism by facilitating interactions among individuals who possess shared beliefs and historical backgrounds. [5] Conversely, the digital realm's inherent openness has the potential to disrupt conventional conceptions of patriotism, since it facilitates the emergence of a wide range of perspectives and dissenting voices inside the public domain. The advent of this courageous new era of digital patriotism presents certain obstacles. The expeditious diffusion of information and the widespread existence of echo chambers can occasionally strengthen confirmation biases and polarize communities, resulting in the emergence of controversial narratives. The utilization of social media's anonymity feature can also facilitate the dissemination of false information and propaganda, so potentially compromising the genuineness of expressions of patriotism. [8]

Due to the rapid flow of information, social media requires caution and extensive media literacy. Therefore, many social media users self-identify as social justice warriors whose task it is to refute incorrect opinions or news on social media. This study seeks to determine the extent to which the majority of social media users in Indonesia, where the largest user demographic is Generation Z, express patriotism through social justice warrior behavior on social media. This study contends that there is no difference between patriotism expressed directly or through social media, and that the nature of social media tends to increase people's sense of patriotism. To demonstrate this, this study addresses two research questions and results: how generation Z in Indonesia interprets a sense of patriotism on social media, and the consequences of social justice warrior behavior on social

media. Then, this research will employ a number of theories, including mass communication theory, to determine the characteristics of social media, and I will use the theory of patriotism and nationalism to define the meaning of patriotism. In addition to describing the appearance of a social justice warrior. The significance of this research lies in examining how social justice activists shape the patriotism of Indonesian generation z on social media. This research will also be beneficial as a reference for future research.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

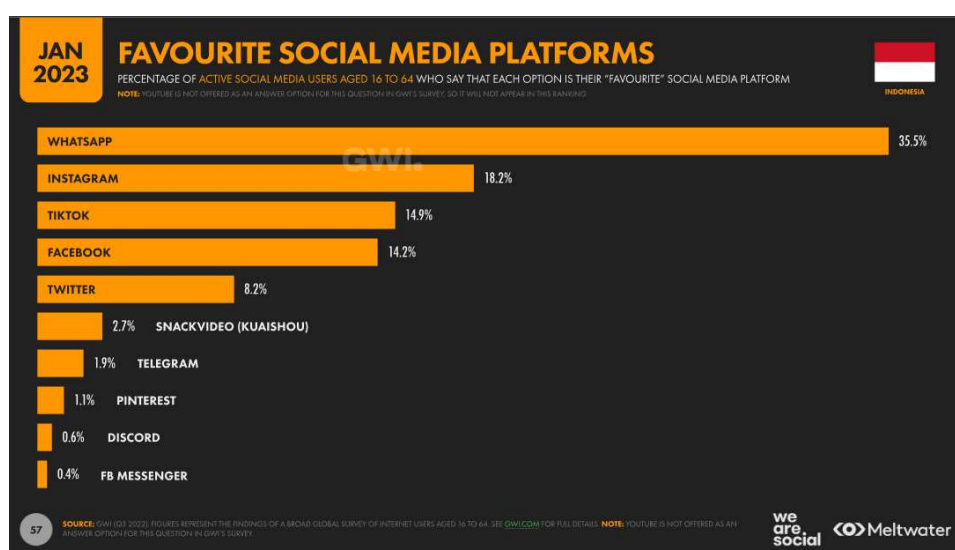
The development of technology influenced by the times may be unstoppable. Many innovations, ideas, and creativity continue to develop very quickly so anyone who does not follow it will be left behind. Technology gives us a lot of convenience in all elements of life. This convenience is enjoyed by many people who on the one hand make a small part of the generation also experience a setback. The influence of technology on the evolution of mass media is a recurring phenomenon. The mass media, which initially emerged in the form of print media, has subsequently evolved into digital media. The development of mass media can be referred to as the convergence of media, telecommunications, and independent media in a digital network, the result of which is changing many basic aspects of mass media and communication. [9] everything in one hand. The mass media has had an indirect impact on the pattern in which information is disseminated. In the past, the mass media has the ability to selectively determine the information that would be disseminated to external audiences. However, in contemporary times, it is the public that exercises agency in selecting the information they desire to acquire. The phenomenon of this pattern alteration is commonly known as media convergence. And Its own development of mass media is not merely a technological advancement but convergence which speaks of cultural displacement when consumers are allowed to access the same data and content in various types of media [10]

The internet has made it easier for mass media users to interact and be more interactive with the various media they want to interact with. The term "new media output" refers to the convergence of digitally connected communication technologies that operate independently. New media can be categorized into four distinct types. To begin with, telephones, cell phones, and emails are regarded as interpersonal communication tools. Furthermore, video games and online games can be classified as forms of interactive media. Thirdly, search engines serve as a means via which individuals can locate and access information. Furthermore, the utilization of the Internet as a platform for the dissemination of information, viewpoints, and perceptions serves as a mechanism for collective engagement. Users, in this context, assume the role of not only mediators but also possess the capacity to evoke emotional responses [9]. Hence, it is evident that the internet is seeing significant expansion in the present era of new media, establishing itself as the prevailing medium or product. The internet greatly facilitates users in getting desired information, transcending geographical boundaries and fostering global connectivity. One prominent kind of contemporary media is social media.

Social media itself is a digital ecosystem that facilitates communication and engagement in the virtual realm. The platform serves as a virtual space where individuals from diverse socio-cultural backgrounds can engage in online interactions, fostering connections and facilitating the exchange of ideas and participation in a wide range of activities. [11] Within the realm of social media, concepts, knowledge, and affective states are intricately interwoven within an imperceptible framework that facilitates the interconnection of individuals and collectives spanning diverse geographical locations. Social media platforms facilitate virtual interactions, communication, and content sharing among individuals in an online environment. It affords individuals the chance to engage with acquaintances, relatives, and even individuals with whom they have not had the opportunity to meet in person. Each individual who engages with social media has a digital profile that serves as a manifestation of their online identity and personal characteristics. The profiles encompass personal details, areas of interest, and visual representations that contribute to the construction of an individual's self-perception inside the realm of the social network. Social media platforms facilitate the dissemination of several forms of material to the intended recipients. Various forms of information, including text, photographs, videos, and live streaming, serve a significant purpose in the dissemination of narratives, concepts, and personal encounters. Social media platforms have a significant role in facilitating the establishment and growth of networks and social connections. [4] Individuals can establish connections with acquaintances from the past, colleagues, other students, or individuals who share common interests, regardless of their geographical location. Social media possesses the capacity to influence public sentiment and cultural dynamics. Using campaigns, trends, and the dissemination of information, these platforms can exert influence over the perspectives and attitudes of both people and society at large. While social media platforms offer numerous advantages, they also present certain obstacles that must be addressed. These issues encompass the dissemination of false information, concerns over

data privacy, and the potential influence of contentious ideologies. Social media serves a multitude of functions, encompassing personal social engagement, the dissemination of personal experiences, access to information, conducting business activities, as well as facilitating activist campaigns, and fostering social movements. [12] The phenomenon of social media is characterized by its ongoing evolution. Every advancement in technology introduces novel innovations to our online interactions and engagements. It is imperative for anyone engaging in social media to possess a conscientious understanding of integrity and responsibility in their utilization of these platforms. The significance of honesty, respect for privacy, and understanding the consequences of social media usage cannot be overstated. The advent of social media has significantly enhanced the modes of communication available to individuals, fostering a heightened sense of global interconnectedness. Moreover, it has provided a forum for those who were previously marginalized, enabling them to share their thoughts and opinions. Nevertheless, it is crucial to comprehend the ramifications of utilizing social media and engage in this digital realm judiciously.

There are many social media platforms that users can choose from according to their wishes. Social media also has its own characteristics, according to its users. In Indonesia, the top 5 social media sites are Whatsapp, Instagram, Tiktok, Facebook, Twitter.



Source: Wearesocial.com, <https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2023-indonesia>

With a percentage of users using social media to search for information followed by socializing, Indonesian people spend approximately 7 hours a day surfing the internet. It was stated that the largest users of social media in Indonesia themselves were between the ages of 25 and 34, with a percentage of 15.4 percent. This data states that the largest social users in Indonesia are young adults. Young adults themselves are those with an age range of 24-34 years, which can be categorized as generation Z. [13] Generation Z is the name for brands born in 1990–2010; this generation is the generation after millennials and alphas. In Indonesia itself, the results of the 2020 Population Census were released by the Central Bureau of Statistics at the end of January and provide an overview of Indonesia's demographics, which have experienced many changes from the results of the previous census in 2010. [14] As predicted and analyzed by various groups, Indonesia is currently in a period called a demographic Bonus. Interestingly, the results of the 2020 census show that the composition of Indonesia's population is mostly from Generation Z (27.94%), namely the generation born between 1997 and 2012. The Millennial Generation is predicted to be the motor of today's social movement. The number is slightly below Gen Z, which is as much as 25.87% of the total population of Indonesia. This means that the existence of Gen Z plays an important role and influences Indonesia's current and future developments. Numerous analyses have posited that Generation Z exhibits distinct traits and characteristics in comparison to preceding generations. The current generation is commonly characterized as a boundary-less generation, implying a reduced presence of limitations or constraints. According to Jenkins (2017), in his essay titled "Four Reasons Generation Z will be the Most Different Generation," Generation Z possesses distinct expectations, preferences, and work views, which present a formidable challenge for organizations. [14] The characters belonging to Generation Z exhibit greater diversity, possess a global perspective, and exert a significant impact on the culture and attitudes of a wide range of individuals. One notable characteristic is that Generation Z

possesses the ability to leverage technological advancements across all facets of their existence. The utilization of technology is as instinctive as the act of breathing for them.

The article authored by Bruce Tulgan and rainmakerthinking, Inc. Titled "Meet Generation Z: The Second Generation within The Giant Millennial Cohort" presents findings from a longitudinal study conducted between 2003 and 2013. The study identifies five distinct features of Generation Z that set them apart from preceding generations. [14] Social media is a significant aspect of the future for the current generation. Generation Z is a cohort characterized by a lack of familiarity with the environment and a notable sense of detachment from the presence of others. The use of social media challenges the notion that individuals are unable to communicate with others regardless of location and time constraints. Social media serves as a means to mitigate feelings of alienation by facilitating connections, communication, and interaction among individuals. [9] This pertains to the second attribute, wherein the paramount importance for Generation Z lies in their interconnectedness with others. Furthermore, it is plausible that a skills gap exists within the current generation. Efforts to facilitate the transfer of talents from preceding generations, encompassing interpersonal communication, work culture, technical abilities, and critical thinking, necessitate a rigorous and comprehensive approach. Furthermore, the accessibility that Generation Z has to connect and interact with individuals from many locations through virtual means, facilitated by internet connectivity, restricts their ability to engage in extensive geographical exploration. However, the ability of Gen Z to effortlessly establish connections with individuals from diverse regions of the world contributes to their development of a global perspective. Finally, the present generation's inclination towards embracing diverse perspectives and mindsets facilitates their readiness to acknowledge and embrace variety and other viewpoints. Nevertheless, subsequent to the aforementioned events, Generation Z encountered challenges in establishing a clear sense of identity. The formation of self-identity is subject to dynamic changes influenced by many factors that shape an individual's cognition and behavior. The proximity of Generation Z to technology does not always provide advantageous outcomes. [14]

In the realm of employment, [15] conducted a study titled "Tolerance of Ambiguity at Work Predicts Leadership, Job Performance, and Creativity," whereby they discovered that younger individuals exhibit a diminished ability to navigate uncertain circumstances in the workplace when compared to their older counterparts. The younger cohort has become accustomed to articulating a preference for novelty, even within more demanding professional domains. Nevertheless, individuals now lack the necessary proficiency and self-assurance to effectively navigate the complexities of environmental uncertainties, resulting in an inclination towards heightened levels of anxiety. This assertion challenges the prevailing belief that being a digital native details compensating for the shortcomings of the preceding generation by possessing more adaptable and innovative abilities to navigate ambiguous circumstances. The premise presented in this paper is quite rational. The members of Generation Z were born and brought up under the conditions of overprotective care, which were prevalent due to the uncertain circumstances prevailing in the world. The prevailing economic recession, ongoing digital change, incursions into multiple nations, occurrences of natural disasters, and the emergence of disease epidemics collectively constitute significant challenges faced by societies. As a consequence, individuals tend to have reduced tolerance towards environmental ambiguity in maturity due to the excessive sheltering experienced during childhood. The findings presented in [16] are supported by research conducted by the American Psychological Association. The capacity to effectively cope with stress and attain a state of well-being is diminishing across successive generations. If this trend persists, it is likely that the upcoming generation, known as Gen Z, will experience unprecedented levels of stress, making them the most stressed generation in recorded history. This phenomenon is also associated with the characteristic traits of Generation Z, who exhibit a lack of interpersonal boundaries, so rendering them susceptible to instability as a result of rapid and unpredictable changes in information and circumstances. With this description of Generation Z, it is easy for them as social media users in Indonesia to carry out various actions anonymously or not, one of which is social justice warrior action.

J.H. Majcher [17] explained that SJWS refers to individuals who participate in online social justice discussions. SJWS is used as a reward for those who have fought for social issues, which means in a positive manner. However, the term SJWS has recently been used to refer to individuals who have advocated for social issues in an opposing manner. The researchers believe that the acronym SJWS refers to individuals who advocate for social justice both online and offline. In the past two decades, the term SJWS has been used positively. However, as the term evolved in an online environment, it acquired a derogatory connotation. A phrase first mentioned in 2009 in a blog titled "Social Justice Warriors: Do Not Engage" later appeared in 2013 in an Urban Dictionary entry and on the forums of something Awful. The term "keyboard warrior" may have been a precursor to "social justice warrior" because it refers to someone who is excessively angry and conceals behind their keyboard while typing tirades

directed at an obscure audience [18]. Therefore, it is also possible to say that SJWs are a group of individuals who share the same social media-related goals and aspirations. In this study, the common aim of society on social media is patriotism. Here his sense of patriotism is addressed within the domain of social media. There are numerous methods to show patriotism or love for the country directly or indirectly in Indonesia.

### **III. METHODOLOGY**

The research approach we are employing is a qualitative approach or fenomenology that focuses on the characteristics of cyberspace that set it apart from activities taking place in online spaces and provides a thorough explanation of the phenomenon by saturating the information contained in the source persons' screenshots, who are Indonesian SJWS on social media [19]. Based on these claims, the qualitative methodology employed in this study aims to identify the various sorts of linked devices that are mentioned in posts by Indonesian SJWS. These three procedures were used to gather the data: Searching for Indonesian posts on social media, classifying data pertaining to social justice warriors' activism, and choosing data pertinent to the research's goal are the first three steps. We made an effort to use a qualitative method and operate within the parameters of virtual ethnography as we explored, analysed, and comprehended the post. By ethnography, we are allowed to view a discourse from the point of view of the source persons. [20] According to Christine Hine [21], virtual ethnography, or ethnography in social media, aims to provide a deep and specific understanding of the significance and implications from Internet users, which will provide a thorough and theoretical understanding and establish the continuity of relationship dynamics in the online world. The researcher will determine all findings on the behavior or interpretation of patriotism in social media.

### **IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

In their actions, the social activities of justice warriors or what can be said as activists on social media are sometimes considered as what we call a resistance movement against injustice or against those who offend these SJWS activists. [12] In what we researched, the activities of the SJWs that we studied were those who have love for the Indonesian state, activist groups that indirectly attack those who hate the Indonesian state on social media. For example, this form of patriotism for SJWs was when batik was insulted by a British netizen named @mahyartousi on Twitter. One of the SJWs commented on the comment column on Mahyar Tousi's twitter account which read "Believe me, we really like to fight inside, but when insulted we all unite! Welcome to the Indonesia". The incident occurred when Mahyar Tousi, an influencer from England, made an insulting comment on the batik clothes and endek fabrics worn by world leaders at the G20 Summit held in Bali, Indonesia. Mahyar Tousi wrote a caption, "What on earth are these idiots wearing?!" suddenly the caption was immediately flooded with comments from SJWs who were not happy with the caption. Even after his post was deleted, mahyar tousi continues to receive serious threats "Following a number of death threats and messages from Indonesian citizens and government officials, I would like to convey this photo uploaded on social media by many of us in the UK which has caused violations in Indonesia" only after posting this, Mahyar Tousi apologized on his Twitter account, "Once again, I apologize for the unintentional insult due to a joke about G20 leaders wearing Indonesian traditional clothes. We in England make jokes about Sunak & Trudeau wearing that and have no bad intentions and are not aware of the culture (in Indonesia)," he said. Another instance, involving the nations of Vanuatu and Indonesia, emerged from a case. The issue is a result of remarks made by Bob Loughman, the prime minister of Vanuatu, at the 75th UN General Assembly. In his remarks, he pleaded with Indonesia to grant the UN Human Rights Commissioner access to the territory of West Papua. The UN envoy for Indonesia then responded to Vanuatu by accusing it of having an unhealthy fixation, being illiterate and shameful, interfering with other nations, and ridiculing people who claim to defend human rights. On social media, it became popular. Several online users from Indonesia left comments on Vanuatu's social media platforms, such as the Instagram account @vanuatuslands, which advertises travel to the nation. Internet users are busy leaving comments on the women and the dance in the picture of Vanuatu women dancing in the water. Other people have expressed their disgust with the traditional Vanuatu attire. Many comments from Indonesian internet users discussed the economic and cultural circumstances in Vanuatu. In fact, the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs intervened to clarify this occurrence as a result of this incident. The company said that "If it is true that there are excessive and disproportionate netizen attacks, it is better to stop it because the Indonesian nation is not a nation that issues racial differences".

In this example, it can be said that the use of social media, audience behavior and the goals of the audience also have a lot in common. Social media that does not have written rules where the audience freely expresses what they want to say makes social media a medium that is diverse in its use. And it can also be seen that the audience carried out social justice warrior actions in commenting where it can be seen that what was commented on had the same goal coming from various audiences, namely

patriotism. It appears when their country is ostracized or insulted by others on social media. Therefore, the SJWs staged a protest action that insulted those people who commented badly on their country in their own way. Even though their comments can be said to be unkind or negative, it can be concluded that their love for their country is the main trigger for carrying out this social justice warrior action. We can also see the various kinds of comments that arose against insults to their country. There are comments that sound negative, some are neutral, that some say threats. From the various responses seen, it can also be said that the users come from various backgrounds and different ages which is also a feature of social media and mass communication. [22] Even social media audiences can provide these comments anonymously by not including a profile photo and description of their own account.

## **V. CONCLUSION**

Patriotism, an emotional attachment that unites individuals based on their native place's principles, has been a significant influence throughout human history. Originating from innate human territorial tendencies, it has evolved into a multifaceted sentiment that intersects with culture, history, politics, and personal identity. In the present era, patriotism persists through various expressions across cultural and societal contexts, reflecting the diversity of nations it encompasses. Some express patriotism through military service, civic participation, and advocacy for social equity. Cultural manifestations, such as national holidays and symbols, reinforce a collective sense of identity and legacy. However, patriotism can also engender isolationist tendencies and animosity towards foreign nations, exacerbating tensions in international relations. The emergence of social media has enabled individuals to transcend geographical boundaries and interact with diverse communities globally, making patriotism a more accessible and effective platform for manifestation, deliberation, and mobilization. Social media platforms have become digital spaces that allow individuals from diverse backgrounds to express their patriotism, advocate for various issues, and contribute to national narratives. This has led to the emergence of digital patriots, who actively participate in online discussions and engage in broader global dialogues. Social media has the potential to enhance a collective sense of national cohesion and patriotism by facilitating interactions among individuals with shared beliefs and historical backgrounds. However, the rapid diffusion of information and the existence of echo chambers can sometimes strengthen confirmation biases and polarize communities, resulting in controversial narratives. Social media users often self-identify as social justice warriors, whose task is to refute incorrect opinions or news on social media. Social media users often identify themselves as fighters for social justice, whose job is to refute opinions or news that are not true on social media. This research results that the majority of social media users in Indonesia, especially Generation Z, express very high and free and diverse patriotism, with many audiences expressing their patriotism on social media, making the power of expression strong because many audiences feel their patriotism is aroused through social behavior. justice warrior. This study uses mass communication theory to determine the characteristics of social media and the theories of patriotism and nationalism to define the meaning of patriotism. The use of social media, audience behavior, and audience goals share similarities, as it allows for diverse expression and the emergence of social justice warriors. The study will also be beneficial as a reference for future research.

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